

Sample Lesson Plan: 2nd Grade
June 2013

Instructions: Using the *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization: Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide*, choose a topic, the standards, and the indicators for the grade level you teach (Use Grade 8 if you work with older students.) Find supporting materials for teaching the lesson in the religion textbook for your grade level. Develop a lesson plan which incorporates the **methodology of storytelling**. Follow the Lesson Planning Outline. Be sure to indicate the grade or age group you are teaching.

Background: I have to give a little background to this assignment. Our RE program purchased the Christ Our Life series, by Loyola Press, last year. This textbook series gives us many online tools to help with our lesson planning. However, it is unfortunate that not all catechists take complete advantage of these resources. The catechetical methodology class has helped me see the importance of lesson planning and I am now using the full resources provided by Christ Our Life. I wanted you to be aware since I almost feel like I am cheating because the resources are so complete and so much of the work is already done for me; however, it is like handing someone a Bible. If you don't open it and read it and pray with it then it is just a useless book to you. I think that is what happens with most catechists/teachers. We get busy. We forget to use the tools that will really make our life easier if we just took the time to use them well. I am also enjoying using my lesson plans to cross reference the standards set forth by the AMS which is like extra insurance that we are teaching what needs to be taught!

Also, a little background on me, I have taught 6th and 7th graders for the last 2 years because no other catechist has wanted to teach them. I have loved teaching the 6th and 7th graders. This summer our wonderful second grade catechist both PCS'ed and my youngest child will be receiving her First Holy Communion this coming year. So, I am using this course to prepare myself to becoming a second grade catechist even though I do not feel ready for the task. It is because of my children's sacraments that I have found myself in the role of a catechist. Every year while we are in Minot one of my four children will receive a sacrament so it has kept me very active in the Church, I think God always has a plan so I am ready to roll with whatever he has in store for me.

Lastly, I wrote this assessment following the Lesson Plan Outline. I am sorry it is not in paragraph form and many sentences are incomplete or summarized. I wanted to get myself used to writing a detailed yet easy to read lesson plan so I try and be brief when I am able.

Preparing to Teach the Lesson

Lesson Title: God the Giver of Gifts

Standard 1 Creed: Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune and redeeming God as revealed in creation and human experience, in Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture, and as entrusted to the teaching office of the Church.

Indicators:

2.01.01 Show understanding that God revealed himself in the Holy Trinity –three Persons in one God (*Define the Holy Trinity*)

2.01.02 Identify Jesus Christ as the Son of God, one with the Father and the Holy Spirit

2.01.07 Recognize human persons as made in the image and likeness of God and meant to live forever with God

- Define the dignity of each person
- Describe God’s never-failing care for creation
- Explain how to give ourselves as gifts.

Grade Level: 2nd Grade

Pages in the Textbook: Christ Our Life, 1-8

Background Reading for Catechist: Psalm 139:14, CCC 299, 301, 355-358, 422

Environment: I will arrive early since this will be our first religious education class of the year. I will write welcome on the board and my name. Our religious education rooms only have long tables and VERY limited space so there is no rearranging that can be done. I would make sure the table is clean and I would place a new textbook at each desk. I would make a small focal prayer table in the room with a Bible, a liturgical colored cloth, a battery operated candle and a crucifix. I would hang beautiful posters on the wall and the Lord’s Prayer poster near the prayer table.

Materials: Textbooks, markers, white paper, name tags, pencils, liturgical cloth, Bible, battery operated candle, crucifix, posters, dry erase markers, bucket filler poster, prayer booklets for each student, jar or can, large popsicle sticks, black sharpie marker.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome: I would begin by introducing myself and telling the students how happy and honored I am to be their catechist (teacher of the faith) this year. As the participants (students) enter the classroom I would be introducing myself and asking the participants (students) their names and giving each a name tag to wear for the first day. Next, I will explain that this is the most important class they will take because they will learn about the God who created each of them and loves them so much they can't imagine all the love he has for them. We are going to have so much fun this year but we do have some rules in our classroom so things run smoothly. I will explain why we have rules in the classroom and explain the rules we have for religious education:

1. raise our hands
2. listen when others are sharing
3. listen when the teacher is talking
4. respect others always
5. use the bathroom before you come to class.

If we follow these rules we are going to have the happiest class in the WHOLE religious education program!

Prayer: Explain about the focal prayer table and how this is our sacred place in the room. Tell the children that the prayer table will change throughout the year just like the Chapel changes throughout the year and the participants (students) need to be aware and notice these changes. I would then ask the children to leave their seats and come join me around the prayer table. We begin all of our prayers with the sign of the cross. I would ask all the children to raise their right hand and then I would teach them the proper: In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen. This is a skill the students must master. I would be beginning with a little spontaneous prayer about our class and our new catechetical year. Then I would ask the participants (students) if they had any intentions. Next, we would pray the Lord's Prayer (I would mention that the participants (students) can read the prayer from the poster if they do not know the prayer yet). Once prayer is complete I would ask the participants (students) to take their places.

Review: No review since this is the first lesson which is good since we had to spend extra time on introductions and rules.

Preview: Outline the objectives on the board: today we are going to learn...

1. what gifts God has given us
2. what we are suppose to do with those gifts
3. learn about the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

I will show the (participants) students a beautifully wrapped present. I will ask them if they liked receiving gifts. Would they want to accept this gift from me? How do they feel when they receive gifts?

Presentation: Time to open our new books! I will ask each participant (student) to write their name on the inside front cover of their books. I will mention that these books are a “gift” from the Church for them to use throughout the year and these books will tell them the greatest story ever...the story of God’s love for them!

- Read the story provided in the book, *God’s Gifts Show His Love*
- After reading the story, I will guide the participants (students) into a reflection of how they are God’s gifts.
- We will read *We are Gifts* on page 4 of the textbook as a class. I would ask the children if anyone would want to read this section to the class (I do not push reading in front of the class until I know the reading level of the students).
- **Tell Jesus’ story** about how God cares for all creation by reading: *God Gives Us Gifts*. I will ask the participants (students) to follow along in their books and take along look at the pictures in the book that describe the story.
- Next, I would ask the participants (students) about the story we just read, leading the participants (students) into a discussion about their personal gifts.
- Take a moment for silent prayer while the children think of all the gifts in their life: their eyes, their ears, their hands, their feet, their family, their home, school...
- Do the Ladders of Creation exercise as a class together or have the children draw a picture of their gifts

It is time to open the present! Have each student take a name stick from the can. Pick a name randomly from the can and have that person open the wrapped present at the head of the table. Tell the participant (student) not to reveal what he or she sees inside until each person has a chance to peek in the box. Once all the children have seen what is in the box discuss as a class what they saw (a mirror is at the bottom of the box, each child saw themselves!

Evaluation/Response: The discussion as a class should be able to evaluate if the students understood the lesson. For extra measure especially since this is the first class we can review the Black Line Master Quiz 1 together as a class so I can evaluate if the students understood the lesson.

Assignment: Each student can pullout pages 1 and 2 and take them home to share with their parents. Encourage the children to share what they learned with their parents.

Announcements:

Prayer Rings: each participant (student) will receive a prayer ring which has all the prayers they are to learn by the end of second grade. The Participants (students) need to practice praying every day. When the participant (student) feels he or she has memorized a prayer they may recite it to the catechist (teacher) and receive a bucket filler.

Bucket-fillers: this is our special chart. Each child has a bucket with his or her name on it. Every time they behave well in class, remember assignment, do special activities at home, recite a memorized prayer, he or she will receive a sticker to “fill” their bucket. When the participants (students) bucket is filled, he or she will win a prize.

Each participant (student) must take home a First Day Paper which explains the classroom rules, activities, curriculum, prayer practice rings, and policies of the program and introduces me as the second grade catechist. Each participant (student) must bring back the signed portion of the First Day Paper if they are to receive a bucket filler sticker.

Closing Prayer: Using their new Prayer Rings, I would ask the participants (students) to turn to the Glory Be and we would pray together (working on the Sign of the Cross).

Evaluation of the Lesson: There are definitely A LOT of variables with this lesson. Second Grade is usually the largest and most un-catechized group due to the fact that many parents baptize their children and do not return to the Church until those children are ready for First Communion. This is the lesson plan for the first class of the year so it is probably presumptuous to think we will be able to complete a whole lesson on the first day. As a catechist, I would see how things are progressing and just bump the lesson portion to the second class. However, I feel very prepared with this lesson plan and can adjust the plan according to the class dynamics.